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forces conditioning the life of generation after generation. As to the scholarship of the authors little need here be said. They are, as Mr. Sidney Low has said, "as learned as the Prussian, as lucid as the Frenchman, and as scholarly and careful as the Austrian." Their latest offering is another monument of erudition. Pamphlets, diaries, parish histories, monographs, statutes and law treatises are adverted to in bewildering number. The fullness of the notes and the fact that so many points are made here that might more properly come into the body of the text (e. g. notes printed on pages 11, 147, 150, 180 etc.) deepens the impression that this book is too long for a mere manual and too short for a full treatise. Much would have been gained, it would seem, had the work been allowed to take a natural expansion to two volumes. The notes are appended to each chapter so that they "can, according to taste, with equal convenience, be studied or skipped" (page vii), but their service to the student would have been enhanced had some indication been given of the page of the text as to which points made were annotated so that the note might be read, when desired, in its proper connection. But on such a sincere and valuable work such criticism may seem captious. In the field of social history it is one of the significant works of the year and worthy of the reputation of the authors whose laborious and penetrating scholarship is, among other achievements, adding so much to our store of knowledge of English local government.

DIXON RYAN FOX.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

William Pitt and the Great War. By J. HOLLAND ROSE.
London, G. Bell and Sons, Ltd., 1911.—xiii, 596 pp.

Mr. J. Holland Rose is the most industrious and, perforce, the most productive of English historical scholars. In two stout volumes on Pitt, of about six hundred pages each, he has given us more to read about him than we could hope for, and at the same time he has bereft us of the pleasure of thinking about him. In short, in the volume before us he has diffused the personality of Pitt through six hundred pages on war, politics and diplomacy. The Pitt whom Rose describes may be disjointed at the end of any chapter without operative shock or loss of blood.

Mr. Rose, it must be said to his credit, is one Englishman who has seen clearly a gap pointed out by a German scholar. For it was Felix Salomon of Leipzig, who among modern scholars first attempted an

adequate treatment of Pitt, as it was another German, von Ruville, who first gave us anything like an adequate biography of the elder Pitt. Let it be said in passing that Mr. Rose's idea of a bibliography is indicated by the omission of Salomon's work from "the chief works referred to."

This need of a definite and adequate treatment of Pitt is not met by Mr. Rose's volume. The reason is simply that he has not been equal to the task of mastering his material, not because he had too much, but one suspects because in relation to all the vast material available for the solution of problems in this period, the material actually used by Mr. Rose was small, and his neglect of vast quantities made what he did have, worth exploitation at the cost of Pitt and of the real problem of relating him to his age and its portentous and complex issues of life and death for nations. Mr. Rose is so impressive in his general allusions to storehouses of documentary material and so restrained in specific references, so full where others have not chosen to digress or where there is monographic literature which has not come under his notice, that one feels reasonably certain that he never disciplined his sense of the worth-while by long and unremitting labors in an attempt to go to the bottom of his subject—"Pitt and the Great War." So much space is given to telling what is not new, or to telling what is new but not important, or to telling without relation to Pitt what is new and important, that the chief actor seems relegated to the wings while Mr. Rose pushes unrelated pieces of scenery across the stage. Naval operations do not hang together with military, military operations take their place irrespective of diplomacy. This, it may be said, is the fault of Pitt as well as of his biographer. When it comes to domestic affairs nothing could be more skilful than the way Pitt's momentous decision not to push parliamentary reform is concealed in the chapter on "Royalists and Radicals." In this chapter the author does indicate somewhat unclearly that the political movements were but the weather-vanes of the social unrest due to the beginnings of a new economic age. Mr. Rose evidently does not know the monographs of Dr. Walter Hall and Dr. Laprade in this field.

In the treatment of foreign affairs, e. g. the Treaty of Basel and the Prussian neutrality, he takes the traditional English view and complains because it "robbed England of her gains in Hayti and Corsica." Concerning the policy of the Directory he should have been able to give a better balanced view on the basis of Guyot's work.

Mr. Rose is not a hero-worshiper, except perhaps in the large part he attributes to Pitt in the ultimate overthrow of Napoleon. Pitt's errors are freely exposed and criticized without however the accom-

panying analysis of the mental processes and cumulative contemporary circumstances, which explain his actions, even if they do not justify them. It is not enough to say that he was following the policy of his father in the Seven Years' War.

Mr. Rose's presentation of Pitt's policy in Irish matters and his effort to give an account of the radical and Jacobin movement in England seem to the reviewer the best parts of this volume. The best point in his treatment of foreign affairs is that which he stressed in his little book on the *Revolutionary and Napoleonic Era*, i. e. that "Poland was the cancer which ate into the vitals of the First Coalition."

GUY STANTON FORD.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA.

A History of Preston in Amounderness. By H. W. CLEMESHA.
Manchester at the University Press, 1912.—xi, 344 pp.

The University of Manchester has already won for itself a distinct place in historiography by the service which it has rendered students of English social history, in publishing intensive studies of localities on the one hand and of industries upon the other. The conception of English history which includes such contributions as those of the Manchester Economics Department on the Industrial Revolution, especially on the cotton industry, and on the other hand the technical monographs based upon borough records over which Professor Tait's genius seems so largely to preside, is a conception far removed from the quiet library of a bishop of Oxford. It is doubtful if the authors of these different contributions realize themselves the significance of the possible synthesis which their labors suggest, a story of social evolution seen in direct connection with the motor forces of the common life. If they have so seen things, they have not, so far as we know, disclosed the fact as yet. But no body of historical research, not even that which we owe to the London School of Economics, is of more fundamental importance in laying the basis for a social history which will be scientific in the genuine historical sense. It is imperative that the municipalities and villages of England should be studied in detail, their occupations, the fluctuations in their trades, their varying fortunes with the shifting of agricultural and industrial population, the statistics of their local rates, minute but vital items as to wages, cost of living etc. A study of such local details in the France of the old régime is now remaking our conceptions of the bases of the Revolution. Undoubtedly this method when applied to England will furnish similar revision of perspectives.

The present volume is a thorough-going, scholarly piece of work,